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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-seventh session
6-17 June 1994

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

To be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna,
on Monday, 6 June 1994, at 3 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.*
5. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-first session (A/AC.105/571).
6. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-third session (A/AC.105/573).
7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
9. Other matters.
10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

*Priority item in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/39, paragraph 37.

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ANNOTATIONS*

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Item 2: Statement by the Chairman

1. Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee and the organization of work, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its thirty-sixth session. The provisional schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present document.

Item 3: General exchange of views

2. The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. (Delegations wishing to speak under this item are asked to submit their names to the Secretariat as soon as possible.)

Item 4: Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/39 of 10 December 1993, paragraph 37, requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

4. The General Assembly, in paragraph 36 of the same resolution, took note of the views expressed during the thirty-sixth session of the Committee and during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

Item 5: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-first session (A/AC.105/571)

5. At its thirty-first session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee in its report to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly[1] and paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 48/39, considered the following questions:

(a) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

(b) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

6. The Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).[2] The Subcommittee's report contains a review of the Programme on Space Applications and its activities for 1993 and 1994, and a proposed programme of activities for 1995, which it recommended for approval.[3]

7. Regarding the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system, the Subcommittee in its report continued to stress the necessity of ensuring such coordination.[4]

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*The annotations and the provisional schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

8. On the question of regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation, the Subcommittee took note of the efforts undertaken as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, in accordance with the UNISPACE 82 recommendation concerning the development of indigenous capabilities, to establish regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national or regional educational institutions in developing countries, as outlined in the report of the Expert on Space Applications,[5] and urged Member States to support the establishment of such regional centres.[6]

(c) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

9. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 45 to 52 of its report. The Subcommittee recommended that the item be retained on its agenda as a priority item for the next session.[7]

(d) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

10. The Subcommittee recalled that the General Assembly had adopted Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space as contained in its resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992 and noted that the Principles provided that they should be reopened for revision by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space no later than two years after their adoption.[8]

11. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis and adopted the report of its Working Group.[9] The Subcommittee took note of working papers submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on revising the Principles,[10] by the Russian Federation on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and space debris,[11] and by Sweden on nuclear power sources.[12] The Working Group considered a number of questions relating to possible ways of revising the Principles and agreed that proper consideration of the aims and objectives of any revision of the Principles should be agreed upon before specific revisions were considered.[13] The Subcommittee expressed the view that the Principles should remain in their current form, as adopted in General Assembly resolution 47/68, until such time as they are amended[14] and endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group that it be reconvened for an appropriate period the following year to continue its work.[15]

(e) Space debris

12. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/39, the Subcommittee began consideration of a new item on its agenda, which concerned scientific research relating to space debris.[16]

13. The Subcommittee expressed its satisfaction at having the subject of space debris as a separate agenda item and took note of the working paper submitted on space debris by the Russian Federation[11] and the report of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) on space debris.[17] The views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 63 to 74 of its report. The Subcommittee agreed that it should focus its attention on the subject of acquisition and understanding of data on the characteristics of the space debris environment, with a view to establishing a common understanding that could serve as the basis for its further deliberations. The Subcommittee also agreed that at its next meeting it should develop a continuing, deliberate, specific multi-year plan for its work on that agenda item.[18]

(f) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

14. During the course of its discussion on this item, the Subcommittee took note of the developments in the various programmes relating to space transportation systems, as reflected in paragraphs 75 to 79 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session.[19]

(g) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

15. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 80 to 87 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session.[20]

(h) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

(i) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

(j) Matters relating to planetary exploration and matters relating to astronomy

16. The Subcommittee continued consideration of these items, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 88-94, 95-100 and 101-104 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the items be continued at its next session.[21]

(k) The theme fixed for special attention at the 1994 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief"

17. The Subcommittee paid special attention to this theme and noted with satisfaction that, at its invitation, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and IAF had organized a symposium on the theme. A summary of the presentations made as part of the symposium and of the special presentations arranged by delegations during the session of the Subcommittee is contained in document A/AC.105/574.

18. The Subcommittee selected a theme for special attention at its thirty-second session, "Application of space technology for education with particular emphasis on its use in developing countries", as indicated in paragraph 121 (h) of its report. The Subcommittee recommended that COSPAR and IAF, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, on that theme during the first week of the Subcommittee's session.[22]

(l) Other matters: third UNISPACE conference

19. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/39, paragraph 22, the Subcommittee considered the possibility of holding a third UNISPACE conference with a view to promoting an early conclusion on the matter by the Committee. The Subcommittee had before it the working papers submitted by Pakistan[23] and by India[24] and considered the working paper submitted by the Group of 77.[25] The Subcommittee agreed that those papers constituted a basis for further discussions on the matter.[26]

20. The question was considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and, in accordance with paragraph 23 of Assembly resolution 48/39, its discussions focused on defining a set of sharply focused

objectives for such a conference as well as details related to organization, venue, timing and funding. The Subcommittee also noted paragraph 24 of the same resolution, which stated that the goals set for such a conference might also be achieved by other means, including intensification of work within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.[27]

21. The Subcommittee agreed that the Committee should further consider at its next session the ideas and proposals contained in the working papers as well as such other ideas and proposals which may be submitted with a view to developing a set of sharply focused objectives and goals that address the needs and interests of all countries with a view to promoting an early conclusion on the matter.[28]

22. The Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to prepare, in time for the next session of the Committee, a comprehensive report on the likely organization, funding and logistical implications of holding such a conference.[29] The Committee will have before it the report prepared by the Secretariat.[30]

Item 6: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-third session (A/AC.105/573)

23. At its thirty-third session, the Legal Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/39, paragraph 4, considered the following matters:

(a) Question of early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

24. The Subcommittee expressed its satisfaction that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space had been adopted, without a vote, by the General Assembly. The Subcommittee noted that the subject of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space had been considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-first session as indicated in its report.[31]

25. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, considered this agenda item. The Subcommittee took particular note of the recommendation made by the Working Group that, bearing in mind that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is in the process of considering the implications of the use of nuclear power sources, the consideration of this item by the Group should be suspended for one year, pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and that the item concerning nuclear power sources should, however, be retained on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee.[32]

(b) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

26. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item; a summary of the discussion of the Working Group is contained in annex II of the report of the Subcommittee.

(c) Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries

27. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item. The various views expressed on the item are contained in annex III of the report of the Subcommittee.

Item 7: Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

28. As mentioned in paragraph 6 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of this item and of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Subcommittee, in its report, took note of the developments relating to the International Space Information Service, studies, inter-agency cooperation and regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation.[33]

29. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee reconvened, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/39, paragraph 12, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Subcommittee adopted the report of the Working Group,[34] which contains conclusions and recommendations on the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and the work of the Secretariat.[35] (See also paragraphs 19-22 above.)

Item 8: Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

30. The General Assembly, in resolution 48/39, paragraph 38, requested the Committee to continue to consider at its current session the agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status".

Item 9: Other matters

(a) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

31. The General Assembly, in resolution 48/39, paragraph 28, noted with interest the analytical report prepared by the Secretariat on the role that the Committee could play in view of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development[36] and agreed that it could make an important contribution to the Committee's future work in this area.

32. Following the request by the General Assembly, in resolution 48/39, paragraph 29, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee reviewed the report at its thirty-first session. The Subcommittee further noted that, in response to the request of the Committee and subsequently of the General Assembly, the Secretariat had provided the Subcommittee with updated information on the implementation of Agenda 21 by the United Nations system, with information on the activities of the Programme on Space Applications related to the environment and development, and with suggestions as to how the activities of the Programme in that area might be expanded.[37] The Subcommittee agreed that they could serve as the basis for future discussions on that important matter within the Subcommittee and the Committee.[38]

(b) Review and revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

33. Principle 11 of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, which were adopted on 14 December 1992, provides that the Principles shall be reopened for revision by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space no later than two years after their adoption. As two years will have elapsed on 13 December 1994 since the adoption of the Principles, the Committee may wish to make recommendations concerning this matter for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

(c) The question of the review of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

34. The Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/68 of 5 December 1979 and entered into force on 11 July 1984, provides, in article 18, that 10 years after the entry into force of this Agreement, the question of its review shall be included in the agenda of the Assembly in order that the Assembly may consider, in the light of the past application of the Agreement, whether it requires revision. As 10 years will have elapsed on 10 July 1994 since the entry into force of the Agreement, the Committee may wish to make recommendations concerning that matter for consideration by the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

(d) Other reports

35. The Committee will have before it the report on the scientific and technical presentations in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.[39] Additional reports may be submitted to the Committee as available. The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

Notes

[1]Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/48/20), para. 129.

[2]A/AC.105/571, paras. 18-44.

[3]Ibid., paras. 23-33.

[4]Ibid., para. 39.

[5]A/AC.105/555.

[6]A/AC.105/571, paras. 41-42.

[7]Ibid., para. 52.

[8]Ibid., para. 54.

[9]A/AC.105/571, annex III.

[10]A/AC.105/C.1/L.192.

[11]A/AC.105/C.1/L.193.

[12]A/AC.105/C.1/L.197.

[13]A/AC.105/571, annex III, paras. 8 and 10.

[14]A/AC.105/571, para. 61.

[15]Ibid., annex III, para. 11.

[16]A/AC.105/571, para. 63.

[17]A/AC.105/570.

[18]A/AC.105/571, paras. 70 and 71.

[19]Ibid., para. 79.

[20]Ibid., para. 87.

[21]Ibid., paras. 94, 100 and 104.

[22]A/AC.105/571, para. 122.

[23]A/AC.105/C.1/L.191.

[24]A/AC.105/C.1/L.195.

[25]A/AC.105/C.1/L.199.

[26]A/AC.105/571, para. 110.

[27]Ibid., para. 109.

[28]Ibid., paras. 112 and 116.

[29]Ibid., para. 113.

[30]A/AC.105/575.

[31]A/AC.105/573, paras. 25 and 27.

[32]Ibid., para. 30 and annex I, para. 9.

[33]A/AC.105/571, paras. 34-44.

[34]Ibid., annex II.

[35]Ibid., annex II, paras. 6-22.

[36]A/AC.105/547.

[37]A/AC.105/547/Add.1.

[38]A/AC.105/571, para. 89.

[39]A/AC.105/574.

Annex

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF WORK

DATE	MORNING		AFTERNOON	
Monday, 6 June			Item 1 Item 2 Item 3	Adoption of the agenda Statement by the Chairman General exchange of views
Tuesday, 7 June	Item 3	(continued)	Item 3	(continued)
Wednesday, 8 June	Item 3	(continued)	Item 4	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
Thursday, 9 June	Item 4	(continued)	Item 4	(continued)
Friday, 10 June	Item 5* Item 7*	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	Item 5 Item 7	(continued) (continued)
Monday, 13 June	Item 5 Item 7	(continued) (continued)	Item 6	Report of the Legal Subcommittee
Tuesday, 14 June	Item 6	(continued)	Item 6	(continued)
Wednesday, 15 June	Item 8	Spin-off benefits of space technology	Item 8	(continued)
Thursday, 16 June	Item 9	Other matters	Item 10	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
Friday, 17 June	Item 10	(continued)	Item 10	(continued)

*As in the past, these items will be considered jointly.